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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
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10/549,801

11/21/2005

Masakazu Funahashi

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EXAMINER

GARRETT, DAWN L

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

1794

MAIL DATE

DELIVERY MODE

08/24/2009

PAPER

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Office Action Summary	Application No. 10/549,801	Applicant(s) FUNAHASHI, MASAKAZU	
	Examiner Dawn Garrett	Art Unit 1794	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 30 July 2009.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 2,5,8 and 10-15 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 2,5,8 and 10-15 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 19 September 2005 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☒ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413) |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application |
| Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

Continued Examination Under 37 CFR 1.114

1. A request for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, including the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e), was filed in this application after final rejection. Since this application is eligible for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, and the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e) has been timely paid, the finality of the previous Office action has been withdrawn pursuant to 37 CFR 1.114. Applicant's submission filed on July 30, 2009 has been entered.
2. The claim amendment filed on July 8, 2009 has been entered. Claims 1, 3, 4, 6, 7, and 9 are cancelled. Claims 2, 5, and 8 were amended. Claims 2, 5, 8, and 10-15 are pending.
3. The rejection of claims 2, 5, and 10-12 under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention set forth in the last Office action (mailed April 8, 2009) is withdrawn due to the amendment.
4. The rejection of claims 2, 10, and 11 under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Ohnuma et al. (US 5,153,073) is withdrawn.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

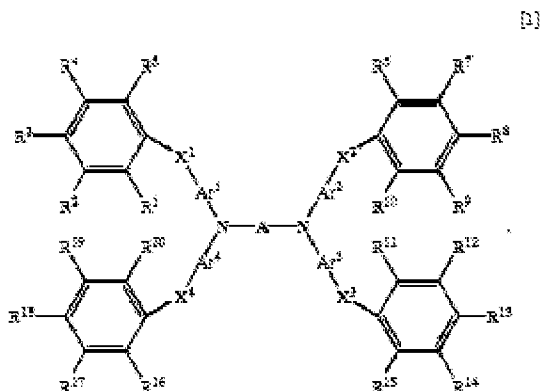
5. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

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6. Claims 2, 5, 8, and 10-15 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Onikubo et al. (US 6,280,859; see entire document).

Onikubo et al. discloses the following general formula of a compound for a layer of an EL device (see abstract):



“A” in the formula may be a substituted or non-substituted fused aromatic group (see col. 2, lines 34-38). A specific “A” group may include pyrene groups (see Table 1, col. 7). The “A” groups may further have a substituent (see col. 41, lines 28-54).

Ar1 to Ar4 comprise a substituted or non-substituted aromatic group or a substituted or non-substituted fused aromatic group (see col. 2, lines 47-50), which read upon the instant phenyl groups attached to the nitrogen and the instant A1 and A2 groups as the *substituted* groups on the aromatic Onikubo aromatic groups. Also, the Onikubo “X” group is one of the substituents corresponding to the instant A1 and A2 groups. Regarding the limitation that at least one of A1 and A2 is an unsubstituted alkyl group having 2 or more carbon atoms or an unsubstituted cycloalkyl group having 3 or more carbon atoms, the examiner notes that there may be more than one instant A1 and more than one instant A2. The present claims provide for the A1 groups or the A2 groups being different when there are 2 or more present. Accordingly,

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Onikubo meets the limitation by teaching that there may be a substituent group on the Onikubo Ar groups, which may include an alkyl having 2 or more carbon atoms or cycloalkyl groups such as cyclopentene (see col. 41, lines 28-50). With regard to instant formula II' and the requirement at least one of m or n is at least 2, the Ar₁ to Ar₄ groups taught by Onikubo may be substituted (see col. 2, lines 47-50 and col. 41). Substituents on the Ar groups may include alkyl groups such as butyl, pentyl, hexyl, heptyl, octyl, or cycloalkyl groups (see col. 41, lines 28-50).

Onikubo does not expressly *exemplify* a compound according to instant formulas II or II'; however, Onikubo clearly teaches a general amine formula encompassing all of the required substituent groups set forth in the instant claims. It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to have formed an amine compound comprising the substituent groups as described above and to have used the compound in a device with a predictable expectation of success in achieving a well-operating device, because Onikubo clearly teaches such a compound having the selected substituent groups is suitable in forming the EL device.

With regard to claims 12 and 15, Examples "96-108" described at col. 195 set forth a device comprising a light emitting layer of Alq and a compound of Table 3 in a ratio of 100:3 (see also, col. 180, lines 15-23 describing a mixed layer). It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to have made a device having the amine compound in a layer in an amount of 3%, because Onikubo clearly sets forth selecting one of the disclosed amine compounds for forming this type of layer in an EL device. One would expect a compound according to the general formula at an amount of 3% to result in a device having high brightness characteristics as set forth in the examples.

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With regard to claims 11 and 14, Onikubo describes a multi-layered device (see col. 179, lines 13-39).

Double Patenting

7. The nonstatutory double patenting rejection is based on a judicially created doctrine grounded in public policy (a policy reflected in the statute) so as to prevent the unjustified or improper timewise extension of the “right to exclude” granted by a patent and to prevent possible harassment by multiple assignees. A nonstatutory obviousness-type double patenting rejection is appropriate where the conflicting claims are not identical, but at least one examined application claim is not patentably distinct from the reference claim(s) because the examined application claim is either anticipated by, or would have been obvious over, the reference claim(s). See, e.g., *In re Berg*, 140 F.3d 1428, 46 USPQ2d 1226 (Fed. Cir. 1998); *In re Goodman*, 11 F.3d 1046, 29 USPQ2d 2010 (Fed. Cir. 1993); *In re Longi*, 759 F.2d 887, 225 USPQ 645 (Fed. Cir. 1985); *In re Van Ornum*, 686 F.2d 937, 214 USPQ 761 (CCPA 1982); *In re Vogel*, 422 F.2d 438, 164 USPQ 619 (CCPA 1970); and *In re Thorington*, 418 F.2d 528, 163 USPQ 644 (CCPA 1969).

A timely filed terminal disclaimer in compliance with 37 CFR 1.321(c) or 1.321(d) may be used to overcome an actual or provisional rejection based on a nonstatutory double patenting ground provided the conflicting application or patent either is shown to be commonly owned with this application, or claims an invention made as a result of activities undertaken within the scope of a joint research agreement.

Effective January 1, 1994, a registered attorney or agent of record may sign a terminal disclaimer. A terminal disclaimer signed by the assignee must fully comply with 37 CFR 3.73(b).

8. Claims 2, 5, 8 and 10 are provisionally rejected on the ground of nonstatutory obviousness-type double patenting as being unpatentable over claims 1, 21, and 22 of copending Application No. 10/617,397. Although the conflicting claims are not identical, they are not patentably distinct from each other because the compounds of the instant claims are within the definition for the amine compounds of an EL device of ‘397. X3 of ‘397 may be pyrene. Ar5 and Ar6 of ‘397 may be substituted aromatic groups. Ar15-A18 of ‘397 are substituent groups that may be present in a number of 2 or greater.

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This is a provisional obviousness-type double patenting rejection because the conflicting claims have not in fact been patented.

9. Claims 2, 5, 8 and 10 are provisionally rejected on the ground of nonstatutory obviousness-type double patenting as being unpatentable over claims 28, 29, 31, 38, 39, 41, 49 of copending Application No. 11/207,933. Although the conflicting claims are not identical, they are not patentably distinct from each other because the compounds of the instant claims are within the definition for the amine compounds of an EL device of '933. X3 of '933 may be pyrene that is substituted. Ar5 and Ar6 of '933 may be substituted aromatic groups. Ar15-A18 of '933 are substituent groups that may be present in a number of 2 or greater.

This is a provisional obviousness-type double patenting rejection because the conflicting claims have not in fact been patented.

10. Claims 2, 5, 8 and 10 and 12 are provisionally rejected on the ground of nonstatutory obviousness-type double patenting as being unpatentable over claims 1-7 and 10 of copending Application No. 11/547,233. Although the conflicting claims are not identical, they are not patentably distinct from each other because the compounds of the instant claims are within the definition for the amine compounds of an EL device of '233. X of '233 may be pyrene. Ar2 and Ar3 of '233 may be substituted aromatic groups. Ar1-A4 of '233 are substituent groups that may be present in a number of 2 or greater.

This is a provisional obviousness-type double patenting rejection because the conflicting claims have not in fact been patented.

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11. Claims 2, 5, 8, 10 and 12 are provisionally rejected on the ground of nonstatutory obviousness-type double patenting as being unpatentable over claims 1, 2, 5, 9, 10, 14, 18 and 22 of copending Application No. 11/761,437. Although the conflicting claims are not identical, they are not patentably distinct from each other because the compounds of the instant claims are within the definition for the amine compounds of an EL device of '437. X3 of '437 may be pyrene. Ar5 and Ar6 of '437 may be substituted aromatic groups. Ar15-A18 of '437 are substituent groups that may be present in a number of 2 or greater.

This is a provisional obviousness-type double patenting rejection because the conflicting claims have not in fact been patented.

12. Claims 2, 5, 8, 10 and 12 are provisionally rejected on the ground of nonstatutory obviousness-type double patenting as being unpatentable over claims 1, 3-8, 10, and 12 of copending Application No. 11/547,306. Although the conflicting claims are not identical, they are not patentably distinct from each other because the compounds of the instant claims are within the definition for the amine compounds of an EL device of '306. X of '306 may be pyrene. R20 and R21 of '306 may be substituted aromatic groups. Ar1 to Ar4 of '306 are substituent groups that may be present in a number of 2 or greater.

This is a provisional obviousness-type double patenting rejection because the conflicting claims have not in fact been patented.

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13. Claims 2, 5, 8 and 10-12 are provisionally rejected on the ground of nonstatutory obviousness-type double patenting as being unpatentable over claims 1-8 of copending Application No. 11/596,299. Although the conflicting claims are not identical, they are not patentably distinct from each other because the compounds of the instant claims are within the definition for the amine compounds of an EL device of '299. Ar1-Ar4 of '299 are substituent groups that may be present in a number of 2 or greater.

This is a provisional obviousness-type double patenting rejection because the conflicting claims have not in fact been patented.

14. Claims 2, 5, 8, and 10-12 are provisionally rejected on the ground of nonstatutory obviousness-type double patenting as being unpatentable over claims 1-10 of copending Application No. 11/575,441. Although the conflicting claims are not identical, they are not patentably distinct from each other because the compounds of the instant claims are within the definition for the amine compounds of an EL device of '441. Ar1-Ar4 of '441 are substituent groups that may be present in a number of 2 or greater.

This is a provisional obviousness-type double patenting rejection because the conflicting claims have not in fact been patented.

Response to Arguments

15. Applicant's arguments filed July 30, 2009 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive.

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The remarks regarding the prior 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph rejection and the 35 U.S.C. 102 (b) rejection over Ohnuma are now moot in view of the withdrawal of these rejections within this Office action.

Regarding the 35 U.S.C. 103(a) rejection over Onikubo, applicant argues Onikubo “says nothing about applicant’s aromatic amine derivative of claim 2, comprising an unsubstituted alkyl group having 2 or more carbon atoms or an unsubstituted cycloalkyl group having 3 or more carbon atoms.” In response, the examiner submits that applicant’s claims provide for there being more than one A1 and/or A2 at a time and that when there are two or more they may be different groups. Substituents for the Onikubo Ar groups include cycloalkyl groups and alkyl groups having 2 or more carbon atoms (see col. 41, lines 28-54). Applicant further argues that B-19 does not read upon the claims as presently presented. The examiner submits that in the Onikubo main formula [1], Ar1 through Ar4 may clearly be substituted or non-substituted aromatic groups.

As noted previously, non-preferred embodiments can be indicative of obviousness (see *In re Lamberti*, 192 USPQ 278 (CCPA 1976); *In re Boe*, 148 USPQ 507 (CCPA 1976); *In re Kohler*, 177 USPQ 399 (CCPA 1973)), and a reference is not limited to working examples (see *In re Fracalossi*, 215 USPQ 569 (CCPA 1982)). In addition, “[A] reference disclosure must be evaluated for all that it fairly [teaches] and not only for what is indicated as preferred.” *In re Bozek*, 416 F.2d 1385 (CCPA 1969). Furthermore, Onikubo is considered to teach all required components of the presently claimed amine compounds.

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Conclusion

16. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Dawn Garrett whose telephone number is (571) 272-1523. The examiner can normally be reached Monday-Friday.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, D. Lawrence Tarazano can be reached on (571) 272-1515. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/Dawn Garrett/
Primary Examiner, Art Unit 1794

August 22, 2009